THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The handloom sector is highly decentralized in nature and, therefore, the production in handloom is estimated on the basis of domestic delivery of hank yarn in Kgs. During the last three years handloom production has maintained a positive growth. Since 2004-05, a consistent increase in production of handloom fabrics has been witnessed with the production rising from 5722 mn sq. mtre in 2004-05, 6263 mn sq.mtre, in 2005-2006, 6536 mn.sq.mtr in 2006-07. During the current year, 2007-08 (upto January) also, the production of fabrics has reached to 5797 mn.sq.mtre (Prov) and it is anticipated to reach upto 7865 mn sq. mtre upto March, 2008.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has introduced Integrated Handloom Development scheme Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme to be implemented during the Eleventh Five year Plan. These schemes will enable the handloom weavers to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance their income and socio-economic status by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. DHD scheme include the components, with a view to create awareness among the weavers about modern colours, fashions etc., to promote handloom industries.

**Closing down of handloom industries in Uttarakhand**

1394. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many handloom industries have been closed down in Uttarakhand during the last seven years; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by his Ministry for encouraging the handloom industry in this State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) No such report have been received from the State Government. However, the Government of India is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skill and providing infrastructural input and marketing support all over the country including Uttarakhand. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the following schemes have been formulated for upliftment of handloom weavers:—

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme